




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

September 14, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR: A.I.S., Inc.
East West Technical Services (EWTS),
MRAG Americas,
At-Sea Monitors (ASMs),
Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) Observers

FROM: Amy S. Van Atten 
Branch Chief, Fisheries Sampling Branch (FSB)

SUBJECT: Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) Pilot Study Updated
Cheat Sheet

There have been a series of changes related to the EMS pilot study. As a result we have updated the EMS Cheat Sheet to keep observers, ASMs, and providers informed of all related modifications. Enclosed please find the updated EMS Cheat Sheet. The updated EMS Cheat Sheet will replace any previous copies of the EMS Cheat Sheet, all other versions in your possession should be discarded. Please see below for a description of all relevant changes.

EMS Vessels

In an effort to obtain more data and test the EMS system out on a variety of representative vessels (gear types, layouts, geographic locations, etc.) we have added three new additional vessels to the study. Of particular notice is the inclusion of two trawl vessels without conveyors. Although the study has several trawlers currently participating, those vessels are equipped with conveyor systems. The integration of trawlers without conveyors will enable us to test the suitability of EMS on these vessels and develop effective protocols for sampling and catch analysis. Please see below for a list of the ***new vessels now participating in the study.***

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Gear Type</u>
Alicia Ann	Dennis, MA	Longline/Gillnet
Leslie and Jessica	Port Clyde, ME	Trawl (no conveyor)
Northstar	Portland, ME	Trawl (no conveyor)

Three vessels are no longer participating in the study. Please see below for a list of those vessels.

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Gear Type</u>
David and Jenna II	Gloucester	Longline/Gillnet
Maria and Dorothy	Portland, ME	Gillnet
Lori B	Gloucester, MA	Gillnet

EMS Sampling Protocols on Trawl Vessels with Conveyors

Trawl vessels equipped with conveyor belts in the EMS pilot study require specific modifications to observer and ASM sampling behavior. Vessel-specific sampling protocols are outlined in EMS Vessel Cheat Sheets created for these vessels which ensure that data used as part of the pilot study are high quality. The sampling protocols outlined in these vessel-specific cheat sheets were created by FSB and the vessel captains. Captains have been provided copies of the cheat sheets which will be made available to all observers/ASMs when observing on these vessels.

EMS Vessel Cheat Sheets include necessary protocols for observing on that particular vessel. Protocols include information on where and how to discard, where to obtain your samples, how to properly discard of large species, a list of all groundfish species important to the EMS study, alternatives to sampling on conveyor vessels or how to sample “clean” catches on EMS vessels, and include photos and information on all vessel camera views. ***It is imperative observers/ASMs reference EMS Cheat Sheets when observing on any EMS vessel.*** Those vessels without vessel-specific sampling protocols would default to the sampling protocols outlined on the EMS Cheat Sheet (general). A list of those vessels with vessel specific sampling protocols is included on the EMS Cheat Sheet and is provided below for your reference.

<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Gear Type</u>
Barbara L. Peters	Scituate, MA	Trawl (with conveyor)
Elizabeth Helen	Port Judith, RI	Trawl (with conveyor)
Ocean State	Point Judith, RI	Trawl (with conveyor)
Virginia Marise	Point Judith, RI	Trawl (with conveyor)

Please note, ***EMS sampling protocols are applicable to groundfish trips only.*** You do not need to follow EMS sampling protocols on small mesh trips.

As a reminder, observers and ASMs have the following responsibilities when observing on EMS vessels.

- Perform all NEFOP/ASM duties as you would on any standard trip.
- Be aware of the location of cameras and avoid obstructing cameras when possible.
- Limited gillnet trip responsibilities takes precedence over avoiding obstruction of cameras.
- Check off the “EMS Used” check box when uploading trip data.
- Do not handle or interact with the equipment in any manner and avoid interaction with winch and hydraulic sensors.
- Reference EMS Cheat Sheet or vessel specific cheat sheet for sampling instructions on EMS vessels (***pay particular attention to sampling protocols on trawl vessels.***)

The EMS Cheat Sheet is a reference guide for observers/ASMs. ***If observing on an EMS vessel, observers/ASMs must refer to the EMS Cheat Sheet to ensure they are following correct protocols for sampling and uploading data.*** The Cheat Sheet also includes information on observer/ASM responsibilities on EMS vessels, lists all participating vessels and contact information for EMS staff.

If you have any questions concerning the study please contact Nichole Rossi at 508-495-2128 or email Nichole.Rossi@noaa.gov. If you have questions about observer sampling protocols please contact Glenn Chamberlain at 508-495-2153 or email Glenn.Chamberlain@noaa.gov or Kelly Neville at 508-495-2151 or email Kelly.Neville@noaa.gov.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Attachments:

EMS Cheat Sheet (*updated*); 14 September 2011